



## Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact [support@jstor.org](mailto:support@jstor.org).

## THE ENFORCEMENT OF CHILD LABOR LEGISLATION

---

BY STARR CADWALLADER, ESQ.,  
of Cleveland, Ohio.

---

I shall discuss the enforcement of the Ohio law only in so far as it applies to the work of girls under eighteen and boys under sixteen after seven o'clock in the evening in Cleveland.

Some two years ago the Consumers' League of Cleveland, just before the holiday shopping began, went through the retail district of the city and found, as in former years, that preparations were being made in various stores to do work after seven o'clock—partly in preparation for the trade of the next day, and partly for other purposes. The members of the league went to the factory inspectors of the district and asked for enforcement of that provision of the law. The factory inspectors of the district excused themselves on the ground that they were very busy inspecting the devices for the protection of machinery; and then, too, they were not ready to prosecute any one engaged in the retail business for violations of the child labor law. As a matter of fact, they stated at the time that they were not in favor of prosecution.

The members of the league then went to the City Solicitor, asking advice as to what could be done. The City Solicitor told them that if they were perfectly sure the law was being violated, and that at the same time employers were cognizant of the provisions of the law, he thought steps could be taken which might help. Although the members of the league had made investigations previously, they went about again to find out whether copies of the law were posted in the various stores, and also whether children were employed during the hours after seven o'clock. They found a copy of the law somewhere in every one of the stores. Sometimes it had fallen behind a desk. Sometimes it was posted in a room on the top floor, where, perhaps, it had not been seen by anybody for weeks; but they found it, and they found in every case that the

employers were familiar with the law. They also found that children were employed. They found children under school age, as well as children under sixteen and under eighteen, employed in the evening. A member who made inquiries in one clothing store on Euclid avenue had a rather humorous experience. There were double doors, opening one to the right, one to the left. At either door was a small colored boy. They were very beautifully dressed in purple uniform, with brass buttons down the front. They wore caps with tassels, and white gloves. After the usual inquiries had been made, the member of the league pointed to the two boys and asked, "What about those boys? Are they not under age?" The manager of the store held up his hands and said, "Good God, Madam! Don't take those boys away from us! We have just bought those uniforms, and they were made to order." In another store on Euclid avenue the proprietor calmly said that they employed children under age, and that he intended to do so whenever they were needed. When it was stated that they would be reported to the inspector, he was very little concerned about that. Returning to the City Solicitor with the information which he had asked, they were told that an order would be issued to the Chief of Police calling his attention to the law, and also saying that the officers should see that the law was enforced. A printed copy of this letter, together with a printed copy of the law, was distributed by the police on the various beats, and in the course of a few days a delegation arrived at the City Solicitor's office. The delegation was headed by an attorney, who, on entering, said, "We have come, Mr. Baker, to talk over the enforcement of the child labor law. Of course, we recognize that it was the thing for you to call attention to it just at this time—very proper. It was your duty; but we have come to talk it over with you." Then various members of the delegation told the City Solicitor how absolutely impossible it would be to do business if the child labor law were enforced; that it was absolutely necessary to employ boys under sixteen and girls under eighteen after seven o'clock in the evening, especially during the holiday season; that otherwise trade could not go on. After they had talked all around they arose and were bowing themselves out, saying that they were glad to have had the interview. Now they were quite sure everybody understood the situation. The City Solicitor then said that he would regret very much if any of them

went away under a misapprehension. The letter sent to the Chief of Police was not sent because it was the holiday season, or because it was the fitting thing to do, or for any other reason than that it meant just what it said. He added that in so far as he was concerned he intended that the Chief of Police should see that this law was enforced during the holiday season as well as at other times. The result was that several hundred children were discharged the first year, and older boys and girls, or men and women, took their places.

The State Factory Inspector was at first inclined to look upon this action by the City Solicitor as interference with his prerogatives. He came up to Cleveland to say so. After two years—it was two years ago that this order was first issued to the police—the situation is something like this: The factory inspectors for the district—one of them has been changed—are enforcing the law and prosecuting cases of violation. There is co-operation between them and the school authorities and other people who are interested in the enforcement of the child labor law.

This year, before the Christmas holidays, advertisements for boys and girls were put in this form, "Boys over sixteen and girls over eighteen wanted." The effect of all this has been wider than that, however, upon the retail stores. The laundries are now making it a rule not to employ any girl under eighteen in a position where night work is possibly required. I say "possibly required." Night work in most of the laundries is not required all the time, but only on certain days of the week and in certain parts of the laundry. The telephone companies have also just decided to employ no girls on their night shifts who are under eighteen years of age. These changes are due, in part at least, to a growing public sentiment in favor of the enforcement of the law. For five years in Cleveland something has been done to create opinion in favor of the enforcement of the law, and to-day the situation is very different from that in 1901.